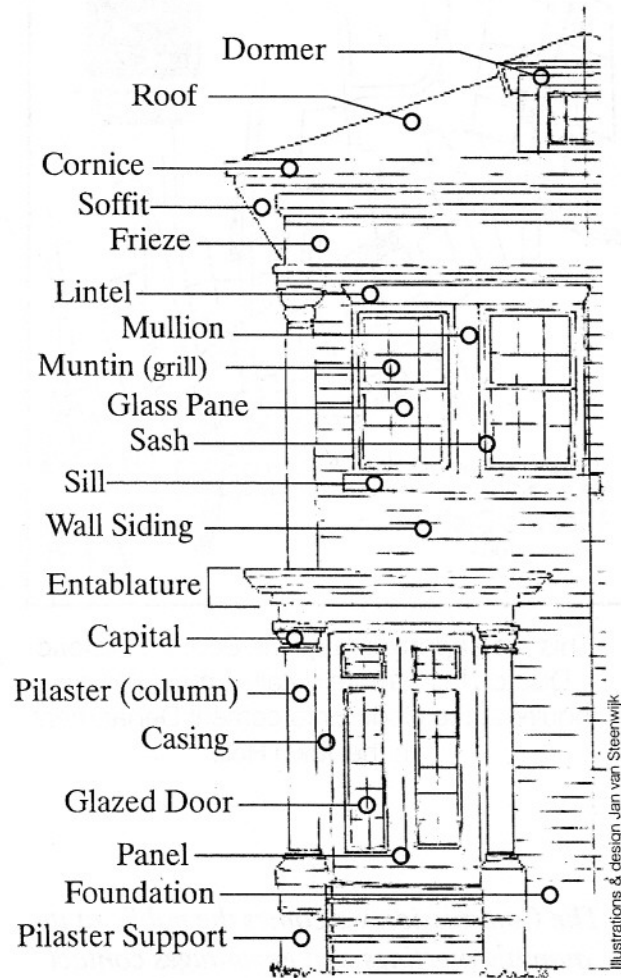


## Common Architectural Terms



Illustrations & design Jan van Steenwijk



The Seal of Bedford includes the oldest existing flag in the US. The Bedford Flag dates back to approx. 1704, making it 300 years old in 2004. It is believed to be the only colonial flag carried during the battle at the Concord Bridge, April 19, 1775.

**HC** The Bedford Historic District Commission  
Town Hall, Mudge Way  
Bedford, MA 01730

# bedford

- historic
- district
- commission



# massachusetts

## Welcome

Welcome to Bedford's Historic District, which was created by a legislative act in 1964 and recorded in the National Register of Historic Places. The Historic District (see map) extends along The Great Road from Hillside Avenue, around the Town Common, past the intersection of Concord and North Roads, to the intersection of Carlisle Road and North Road. Buildings within the Historic District date from the early 1700s through the late 1900s. The Historic District has many fine examples of Colonial, Federal, Greek Revival, and Victorian architecture as well as newer harmonious structures.

## Purpose

The Historic District Commission (HDC) was established by Bedford Town Meeting and the Massachusetts Legislature in the Acts of 1964, Chapter 118, copies of which are available from the HDC Secretary, in the Code Enforcement Department at the Town Hall. The purpose of the Commission is "to promote the educational, cultural and general welfare of the public through the preservation and protection of buildings, places and districts of architectural and historic significance."

## Requirements

In accordance with the Acts and Town By Laws, the Commission requires that property owners in the Historic District submit applications for review and approval of any contemplated exterior changes, including color (except white), structural alterations, new construction, siding, roofing, removal and planting of trees, landscaping, lighting, signs, fences, and demolition. Routine maintenance does not require review. If in doubt, a

Commission member should be consulted. The HDC Secretary can provide the names of current members for advice and guidance.

## Application Process

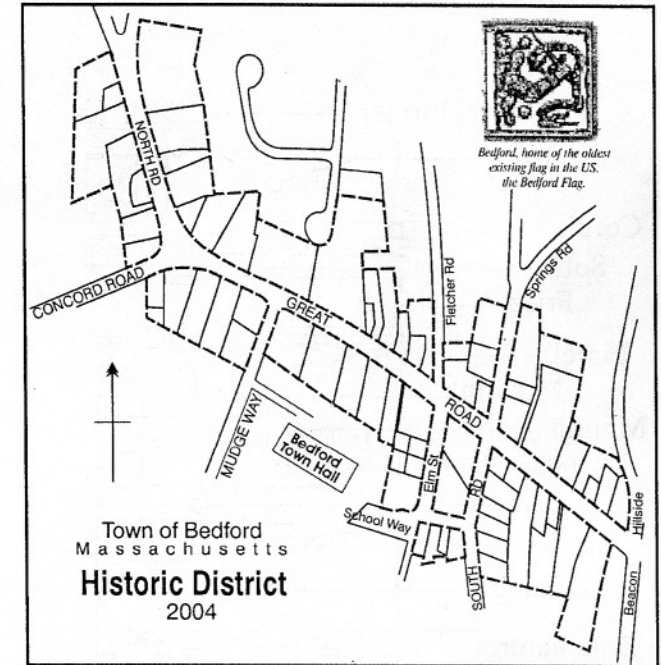
Application forms may be obtained from the Code Enforcement Department. Forms should be completed and submitted together with all required signatures, application fee, and specified materials to the HDC Secretary, who will record the date of receipt. The HDC will contact the applicant and arrange for a public hearing. Hearings are normally held the first Thursday of the month.

## Public Hearings

Public hearings require that legal notice be published in a local newspaper, posted at the Town Hall, and sent individually to all abutters at least seven days prior to the hearing. Therefore, applications must be received at least three weeks before a scheduled hearing. Filing an application for contemplated changes to property ensures your right, and that of your neighbors and other citizens of Bedford, to comment at a public hearing. The HDC encourages citizens to attend HDC meetings.

## Notice of Determination

The HDC generally meets once a month and is required to render a verbal decision within 45 days after receipt of an application. This decision is subsequently sent to the applicant in written form as a "Notice of Determination." If the application is made in conjunction with a request for a building permit, the Building Inspector may not issue a permit until he receives a copy of this official notice of the HDC's decision.



This map approximates the Bedford Historic District. For a more detailed map, please inquire at the Code Enforcement Department in the Town Hall.

*The Commission welcomes the public at its monthly meetings and encourages contact with members if there are questions or concern.*

*"Bedford residents, working together, take pride in preserving the town's historic heritage."*

Bedford Historic District Commission  
TOWN HALL  
Bedford, Massachusetts 01730  
781-275-7446